

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 106

By Crowe

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Clem Wilkes, Jr., of Johnson City.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Clem Wilkes, Jr.; and

WHEREAS, Clem Wilkes was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, Clem Wilkes was employed in the pharmaceutical sales industry until 1978, when he transitioned to a highly successful career as an investment broker, serving his clients for thirty-four years before taking his much-deserved retirement from Citizens Investment Services in 2019; and

WHEREAS, a native Tennessean born in Johnson City, Mr. Wilkes earned a Bachelor of Science degree in History from East Tennessee State University (ETSU); and

WHEREAS, a highly respected member of his community, Mr. Wilkes was a member and former chair of the Mountain States Health Alliance Board of Directors and a member of the Ties for the Blind Foundation, the Johnson City Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, ETSU's Buccaneer Athletic Scholarship Association, and the Johnson City Lions Club; and

WHEREAS, he was a devout member of St. John's Episcopal Church, where he served as lay Eucharistic minister and senior and junior warden of the vestry; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades, Clem Wilkes received the Spirit Award in 2012 from the Mountain States Foundation, the Milligan College Leader in Christian Service Award, and the Donald R. Jeanes Humanitarian Leadership Award; and

WHEREAS, he was named the Lion of the Year and Lion of the Decade by the Johnson City Lions Club and enshrined on the Johnson City Parks and Recreation Wall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, he was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Clem Wilkes enjoyed the loving companionship of his wife of forty-six years, Tonya, and was the proud father of two children, Elizabeth Wilkes Rabb (Marc and Ella) and Clem "Bo" Wilkes III (Taylor, Hamilton, and Palmer); and

WHEREAS, he will be sadly mourned but fondly remembered by his brother, Haynes Miller Wilkes; his sister Dorothy Wilkes Bedor; and a host of extended family and dear friends; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Wilkes was preceded in death by his father, Clem Wilkes, Sr.; his mother, Dorothy "Dotty" Wilkes; and his sister Cabell Wilkes Lonon; and

WHEREAS, Clem Wilkes leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Clem Wilkes, Jr., reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Wilkes.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.